



MONTEREY NEWS

July 2002
VOLUME XXXII · Number 7



Monterey General Store Reopens July 1

Good News! The Monterey General Store, closed since January of this year, is once again open for business, as of July 1. The new business owners and managers are Bonnie and Don Marks, who also own and manage the Lake Buel General Store. Bonnie will manage the Monterey store, and Don the Lake Buel store. They intend to continue to operate the Monterey store as a traditional general store, serving the needs of the community. The store hours are Mondays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to noon. The telephone number is the old familiar one, 528-4437. Bonnie and Don have been hard at work setting up and stocking the store. Stop in, say hello, and, most importantly, support

this valuable community resource. It won't work unless we patronize it.

The store will also house the Berkshire County Properties Real Estate office of Riccardo Boehm.

The community also owes a large debt of gratitude to Joyce and Lew Scheffey, who made it possible for the previous version of the store to stay open as long as it did, and who have worked extremely hard to make the new version happen. They are continuing to work to find solutions to the soil contamination and septic problems, which must be cleared up before the building can be sold

— Will Marsh

The Town

Over the course of four meetings in June, the Select Board dealt with the usual wide range of issues, of varying degrees of urgency, several of which are ongoing.

Conservation Commission

Chris Blair of the Conservation Commission informed the Select Board that an alarming number of docks have been built on and around Lake Garfield, without or in excess of town permits. The board has asked Town Counsel to advise them on the best way to proceed in issuing stop work orders or having docks dismantled. Construction of any sort on or near the lake requires a town permit.

Mr. Blair also reported that the Conservation Commission has successfully completed three enforcements involving restoration of damaged wetlands. The Commission is continuing its work on the Scenic Mountains Act and hopes to have an informational meeting within the next month. Mass. DEP has asked the town to file a Notice of Intent for the Lake Garfield drawdown.

Lake Garfield Boat Ramp

The Public Access Board continues to press for a boat ramp and is expected to present a formal proposal. A 1971 town bylaw grants them this right, but details of location and use must still be discussed at a public hearing. Select Board Chair Muriel Lazzarini declined their request for a temporary ramp until such a hearing can be held.

Firehouse Use Policy Questioned

Representatives of the Lake Buel Association questioned the Select Board

about the policy for use of the Monterey Firehouse. Verbal assurances had been received that they could use it for their annual meeting, but permission was later revoked by the Fire Chief. The board acknowledged that although the membership votes, the Chief has the final word. They also stated that the Select Board has no input into decisions on the Firehouse, even though town fire equipment is housed there.

Park Commission Concerns

Parks Commissioners Leroy Thorpe and Jim Edelman and former Commissioners Marta Makuc and Denise Andrus met with the Select Board to discuss why a good idea had gone wrong. A group of parents had expressed a need for a swing set at the town beach. One thousand dollars was raised and a swing set was ordered. Unfortunately when the chips were dumped on the beach it became apparent that the location was unworkable for several reasons: safety issues because of the tight space, potential conflict with a public-access boat ramp, placement over the tubes, and in conflict with Fire Department access. Alternative locations were discussed with the dam site getting the most support. The immediate need was for the removal of the chips before the grass died. Removal by the town crew cost \$400. To date no decision has been made on the fate of the swing set.

The Select Board appointed David Crane as the third member of the Park Commission and polled those present about increasing the number of members to five. The consensus was positive, and the board will appoint alternates until a Special Town Meeting can make the increase official. The board confirmed that the cost of cleaning up the town beach must come from the Park Commission budget, leaving open the possibility of an increase if needed.

Road Maintenance, Parking Problems, Equipment Bids

The ongoing erosion of Fairview Road is of concern to those who live on and use the road, and because the almost weekly maintenance is a drain on the highway budget it is of concern for the town. As the town has raised the roadbed over the years, erosion problems have increased as have the number of drivers sliding into the ditch. The solution is still unclear although Director of Operations Maynard Forbes and Selectman Peter Brown have expressed support for surfacing the road with oil and stone. The Montgomerys of Fairview Road have engaged an engineer to advise on a solution, as Mass. Highway no longer provides engineering consulting services for towns.

Mr. Forbes reported on repairs to Tyringham Road. Bids for blacktop will go out sometime in July and the road will be closed to through traffic for a day or two in August. The confusion over detours and signage which occurred during the initial closing will not reoccur.

Both Mr. Forbes and Police Chief Gareth Backhaus commented on parking problems at the town beach and town center when several activities are scheduled at once. A potential solution for the town center could be to expand access to town-owned land behind the Firehouse by building a gravel road that would allow for additional parking and an alternate approach to Greene Park. \$5,000 has been appropriated to explore this possibility.

Chief Backhaus also briefed the board on plans to erect a radio tower at the rear of the new Town Hall addition. It could extend thirty feet above the building.

The Select Board reviewed a new equipment bid drawn up under the provisions of MGL Ch. 30B. It is valid for three years, with allowance for increases for machinery rental in line with the Producer Price Index. Bids will be opened on July 1 at 11 a.m.

The town has accepted Master Garbologist's low bid for transfer station operations and has communicated with them about staffing issues.

Complaints about Post Office

Numerous complaints have been received about the new parking signs at the Post Office. There is also much confusion resulting from a new policy of not delivering mail if it doesn't have the PO Box address. Cancelled car insurance and turned-off telephones have been reported. Citizens are cautioned to notify senders of their PO Box address.

This and That

The Annual Second Homeowners Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 20, at 10 a.m. at the Firehouse.

911 numbers will now be issued with building permit packages.

Fund-raising will begin soon for new equipment for the playground at the New Marlborough Central School in Mill River. Linda Thorpe is the Monterey contact.

Most recently the Select Board met in executive session for three hours with Fire Chief Ray Tryon before deciding to postpone a vote on his reappointment until Monday, July 1. No information was made available about the issues that were discussed.

— Michele Miller

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Printed on the next two pages are the presentations, edited for space, delivered at the May 31st celebration at The Seven Stones honoring recent town retirees.

Honoring Walter Parks

Having lived in Monterey all my life, I have been fortunate to have known Walter for thirty years. I've been thinking back as far as I can remember to come up with some kind of early memory of Walter—some kind of first memory. But this is nearly impossible to do with someone who was just always there . . .

I do remember that when we kids were growing up, we always referred to grown-ups by Mr., Mrs., or Miss as the case may have been—Mr. Amidon, Mrs. O'Connell—but I can think of two or three people whom we were allowed to refer to by first name only. One of these was Walter. I think if someone has asked me what Walter's last name was when I was four or five, I would have replied with certainty, "the Postmaster."

I'm not exactly sure why our parents allowed us to call Walter, "Walter." It certainly was not out of a lack of respect. I think it had something to do with Walter being such a constant in all of our lives. Everybody gets mail. If you lived in Monterey, chances are that meant going to the post office. And if you went to the post office, you knew Walter. There was never a question of whom you were talking about when the name Walter came up in conversation. The beauty of going to the post office in Monterey was that you always knew, without a doubt, that it would be a pleasant experience. 'Tis true, you never knew what might be in your box—bills or junk mail—but you knew if



Walter Parks, Gige O'Connell, and Harry Gustafson at their celebration

you went to the counter you would always get a smile and some pleasant remarks.

Sometimes if you went too many days in a row without a transaction at the window, you might feel something lacking in your trip to the village. You might suffer from what can be called "Walter Deprivation." So maybe you started coming up with excuses to visit the counter. Mind you, it may have been a subconscious thought, but I bet most of us sometimes found our feet heading to the window when we didn't really need to go there.

I, for one, will admit to many a purchase of a single one-cent stamp. Perhaps some of you are guilty of purposely giving Walter large bills, just to hear him count the change back to you. And Walter—did you ever answer the phone only to have the person on the other end hang up? That was just us wanting to hear your voice answer, "Monterey Post Office."

Another great excuse to visit Walter was the old "I can't get my box open!" Yes, Walter, I'm sure there was a time or two on a slow afternoon that one or more of us only halfheartedly tried to twist those sticky dials before we gave up and asked you for our mail. We respected that you had a lot of work to do, and we certainly tried not to abuse your kindness, but sometimes our day would be so much more pleasant when we interacted with you.

I think the award for the best excuse to visit with Walter goes to the new mom (I'm not going to mention any names here) who asked Walter to weigh her newborn on the post office scale. Which he did.

I always found it amazing how Walter could change my attitude about the increases in postage. I'd hear about the upcoming increase on the news, read about it in the paper, and join in with everyone else grumbling and complaining about the outrageousness of the United States Postal Service. And then when the time came to buy a stamp at the new rate, Walter would say, "And that's only 34 cents!" And I would walk out of the post office thinking to myself, "Wow, for only 34 cents Walter is going to personally make sure my letter gets across the country, just for me . . . amazing!" He made every transaction seem like you were a valued customer getting a special deal. Wouldn't it be great if Walter could sell us our houses and cars?

(continued on next page)

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Walter began working at the Monterey Post Office in 1959 and became Postmaster in 1970. After forty-two years of service, he retired on a Friday last June. Many of us were on hand to see him off on his last day of work and to wish him well. As we slowly walked away from that gathering, feeling a mixture of sadness and happiness—the sad for us, the happy for him—we wondered out loud how often we would get to see this person who was such a constant in our lives. We didn't have to wait long. After all, even Walter needs to get his mail.

The story, as I heard it, was that the following Monday, Walter was sighted in the post office standing in front of his box, twisting and turning (and twisting and turning ... and twisting and turning ...) the dial. In his other hand was a tiny slip of paper containing the letters of his combination. Now I don't know how many tries it took him to open his box that morning. And I don't know how many days until he had his combination memorized. But I do know that it brought us all great comfort to know that we might be lucky enough to bump into Walter at the post office.

When Monterey celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary in 1997, it appropriately came up with the slogan "'Tis the people that make the place." Printed on the back of the volunteer T-shirt was the phrase, "The Heavenly Headwaters of the Konkapot AND where Walter is the Postmaster." One might think that a rather gutsy decision on the part of the committee who printed that shirt. After all, there are so many incredible people who make Monterey the wonderful place that it is. Look around this room—it's impossible to mention the contributions and talents of all the dedicated townspeople here. To single one person out to symbolize our great town could have been a big mistake. But it wasn't. It was the perfect decision.

Every comment I heard about that choice to single Walter out was positive. Nobody in town could think of anyone else more deserving of this honor. Thank you, Walter. Thank you for all your years of service. All your years of patience, good humor, and kindness. May your mailbox always open on the first try.

— Mari Enoch

Ode To Harry Gustafson

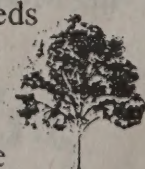
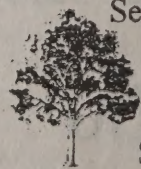
*Pencil, paper, long tape measure, nothing packs more glee and pleasure.
Visiting your fine abode,
He ferrets out your new commode.
He espies your dock and floating raft.
His dedication makes you daft.
Did you guess that he'd inspect your western wall so newly decked?
Or hope that he'd ignore the garage up on the second floor?
"That's attic space, that's all at best, so! a stove and toilet for occasional guest
The skylights and a/c, the satellite dish, don't make it a cottage. WE WISH!
Come on Harry, be a good sport.
That's just our same old dumpy carport."
Summer folks, you know they get "forms of list."
"Fill them out! There's a deadline!" He must yearly insist.
"Personal property, we must by law tax it.
Mail it back or you may simply fax it.
Not your toothbrushes, no not the combs for your heads,
Just antique credenzas and canopy beds."
Tornado victims, unlucky few,
Trees are gone. WHAT'S THAT? A VIEW?
Counting each cow, every pig, hen or sheep,
Knowing breadth of each parcel, exactly how deep.
He even has talent for taxing thin air.
That's called taxing stumpage. There's just nothing there.
What used to be woodland better not become bare
If taxed under chapter law Harry will care.
Assessor Harry Gustafson,
For setting values he's the one.
He's always fair; He sticks to rules.
So we do our share for roads and schools.
You grumbled perhaps, but you really couldn't knock it
When Harry told Henry what to pry from your pocket.*

— James Bracken

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Honoring Gige O'Connell

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to speak about Gige O'Connell, whom I hold in the highest of esteem and affection and whose contributions to the Town of Monterey are truly remarkable. It is impossible in a mere five minutes even to highlight her record of distinguished public service, which extends over four decades. I have done my best to distill the highlights of the highlights.

Gige moved to Monterey, to her house on Curtis Road, in 1961 with her husband Gene and their six young daughters. In 1963 she began her teaching career at the one-room Monterey School. When the early primary grades were moved to New Marlborough in 1967, she completed her certification and then taught at the New Marlborough School until her retirement in 1989. Gige is first and foremost an educator, bringing to every endeavor her passion for learning. The schoolmarm is always there, just below the surface, and she can be a real stickler for detail. When I asked her what the payoff was from all those years of involvement with the children of Monterey, she chuckled and said that she can always get an immediate response from her painter, her carpenter, her electrician, because they were all her students. When she calls, they still come.

Gige's first official dip into public service came as a natural progression from her role as teacher. In 1973 she was elected to the Library Board of Trustees. The trustees had just launched plans to build a historical wing on the library as part of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration, and Gige and Anne Marie Makuc wrote the grant proposal that secured matching funds. The General Knox Museum Wing was dedicated in August 1976.

In 1975 Gige joined the Board of Appeals, where she served for 13 years. Her passion for community involvement reached full expression when she was elected to the Select Board in 1988. Of course it was then called the Board of Selectmen, but as the first Selectwoman in Monterey history, Gige was the right person to bring about linguistic reform. Some might dismiss as insignificant the removal of gender bias from the board's historical

name, but for Gige it was like a sign over a door—a door that should be open and welcoming to all, regardless of gender.

That open-door policy became a hallmark of Gige's tenure on the Select Board. When I asked her to name the accomplishments of which she was most proud, she said without hesitation that it was the opportunity to involve people in town affairs — to find good people whose talents could be utilized for the good of the town and to interest them in participating. She pointed with pride to the town's hard-working boards and committees, the team effort of vital, energetic people who give generously of their time to make Monterey the special community that it is.

When Gige first came to the Select Board, the town had just accepted the gift of the Monterey Grange building, so in addition to managing day-to-day town business, the board also had the monumental task of outfitting and directing the evolution of the Grange building into usable town-office space, and ultimately into a town hall, all on a frugal budget. The very first chair that Gige occupied showed her what was to come: it had a habit of tipping over if you leaned backwards, as she found out the hard way. Then the boiler failed, the basement flooded, a handicap-access ramp was needed, an alarm system, and smoke detectors . . . You get the point.

When I asked Gige recently what Select Board accomplishments she valued as her own contributions she was, as usual, reluctant to claim any credit for herself, stressing team effort and the contributions of others, but I was able to pin her down on a couple of things: The institution of the annual meetings for second homeowners was her idea, and

she is proud that these meetings provide a forum for those who previously had no voice in town governance. It was also her idea to institute quarterly meetings for all town boards and committees.

During Gige's tenure on the Select Board, she also served on several town committees, including the Salary Committee, the Roads and Machinery Committee, and the Town Hall Committee. She is still an active member of the Veterans Memorial Committee. In fact it was Gige who picked the site the new Veterans Memorial Park.

Concurrent with her three terms on the Select Board, Gige served on the Board Of Health for nine years. During this time the board became very proactive in protecting both the public health and the environment. In 1990 the board enacted the first bylaws regulating the installation of wells and began to look at alternate septic installations that do not carry as great a threat of pollution in the more environmentally sensitive areas of town. She became well versed in the requirements of the new Title 5 section of the State Sanitary Code and served as the first Board of Health Clerk.

Gige's record of involvement in town affairs over the past four decades is one of distinguished public service; in fact it is the very model of an involved citizen dedicated to the improvement of her community, generously giving of her time, energy, and enthusiasm. The town has been fortunate to have her as a citizen, and we are fortunate to have this occasion to express publicly the appreciation we all owe Gige O'Connell for her many years of service. Tonight she is truly the First Lady of Monterey.

—Judith Kales

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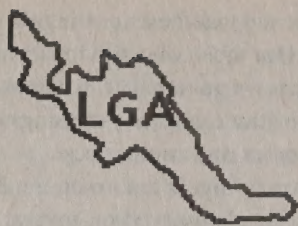
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2nd Annual "What the Heck Is the Lake Garfield Assoc. and Why Should I Give a Hoot?" Quiz.

1. The mission of the Lake Garfield Association (LGA) is:
 - A. to ensure the water in Lake Garfield stays wet.
 - B. to repeal the federal law that requires people to wait 30 minutes before swimming after lunch.
 - C. to protect, preserve, and enhance Lake Garfield for the use and enjoyment of all members of Monterey community.
 - D. to better understand why the lake and its surroundings get dark at night.
2. LakeFest 2002, on August 17, from 2:00 p.m. to whenever, will consist of:
 - A. fun for kids, like a sandcastle-building contest, face painting, banner painting, paper boat making and flotilla. ("Flotilla," isn't that a Mexican food?)
 - B. a kids fishing contest and fly-casting lessons for all.
 - C. free boat rides around the lake (Volunteers needed. Please call Hy Rosen 528-9090), free canoe rides around the pond—and free kayak rides, featuring 11 different models, hosted by those nice folks from Expeditions.
 - D. a potluck dinner that will make your taste buds sing the top ten hits. And, of course, we wouldn't forget the campfire and marshmallow roast.

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 Tuesday 9:30 a.m.—noon
 Wednesday 3-5 p.m.
 Saturday 9:30 a.m.—noon
 7-9 p.m.

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- E. the music of "The Bottom of the Barrel Band" and Karl Finger, local song and dance man, who will lead folk dancing on the lawn at the beach.
- F. a fireworks display that will quite simply knock your socks off. Kaboom!
- G. a Lake Inspired Art Show cosponsored with the Monterey Cultural Council, featuring paintings, photos, drawings, sculptures, and poems. (It's not a done deal, but we're working on it.)
- H. all of the above. (If "H" is the right answer it's going to be one fantastic, fun-filled day for the whole family!)

3. The grand prize in the fund-raising raffle for LakeFest 2002 will be:
 - A. a five-pound wedge of faccimali bacceroni cheese.
 - B. a seven-pound wedge of faccilmali bacceroni cheese.
 - C. a cool kayak, complete with paddle (a \$450 value) from Expeditions at 276 Main St. in Great Barrington. (Don't get caught up the river without one!)
 - D. a five-day guided tour of the town of Monterey.
4. LGA is now a member of LAPA, which is:
 - A. the Los Angeles Police Academy.
 - B. the Lake and Pond Association, a product of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Watershed Initiative, which seeks to have an active and effective network of stewards (and we have got a great one!) interested in improving water quality in lakes and ponds.
 - C. French for "the father."

Call for Lake-Inspired Art

LakeFest 2002 will host an **Art Gallery and Tea House** in the Social Room of the Monterey Meetinghouse (aka the church basement) on the day of LakeFest, August 17, rain date August 24. Monterey resident and summer resident artists are invited and enthusiastically encouraged to submit *lake-inspired art*—paintings, photos, drawings, sculpture, pottery, poems, etc.—to the show. Please call Eileen Lawlor, 528-7916, for more information or to submit work.

- D. Italian for the seat that the thighs provide when one is sitting.
5. Membership in LGA is limited to:
 - A. original Monterey settlers (circa 1790).
 - B. Navy Frog Men.
 - C. Navy Frog Women.
 - D. anyone and everyone in Monterey who loves our great Lake Garfield. Dues are a mere \$25 a year (less than .003 cents an hour). Help protect the lake from weeds, Martians, and vulgar boatmen. Mail checks to LGA, Box 176, Monterey, MA 01245. Or ante up \$50 and reap the benefits of membership, plus a glorious LakeFest 2002 poster and 10 raffle tickets, your chance to win that cool kayak.

— Hy Rosen & Cliff Rosen

Answers: 1, C (though B is such a bummer); 2, H (Can it possibly be? Yes!); 3, C; 4, B; 5, C (Just kidding. It's really D)

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Historical Society Lecture on Ventfort Hall

"Ventfort Hall and the Museum of the Gilded Age" will be the topic of the July meeting of the Monterey Historical Society on Friday evening, July 26th. Lani Sternerup, Curator of Visitors' Services at Ventfort Hall, will give an illustrated talk covering the history of this magnificent building: its birth as one of the most elaborate "Cottages" of the fabulous Gilded Age in Lenox; its subsequent history and decay; and finally its ongoing restoration into a Museum of the Gilded Age. Ms. Sternerup is a gifted historian and archaeologist, with experience in the Berkshires. She will illustrate her talk with fascinating slides.

Ventfort Hall is a "Berkshire Cottage" built in 1893 by Sarah Spencer Morgan and her husband George Hale Morgan. It is located at 104 Walker Street in the center of Lenox. The architectural firm of Rotch and Tilden created the Elizabethan Revival mansion on a hill dominating what would become an impressive landscape setting. It's reputation of opulent display and lifestyle is typical of the time, as are its subsequent reincarnations in various guises within our contemporary age. It was finally saved from demolition in 1997, when the Ventfort Hall Association, Inc., purchased the property and planned its restoration into the Museum of the Gilded Age.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m., in the General Knox Museum wing at the Monterey Library. There will be a short business meeting.

Upcoming Events at Monterey Library

Talk by Mystery Writer Parnell Hall, July 16

Parnell Hall, author of the acclaimed Stanley Hastings and Puzzle Lady mystery novels ("a joy for lovers of both crossword puzzles and crime detection"), as well as the Steve Winslow courtroom dramas, will talk about his work at the Monterey Library on Tuesday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. His work has been described by Will Shortz, Crossword Editor for *The New York Times*, as "fresh, funny, and ingeniously devised." Mr. Hall, who now lives in New York City, is a native of Lenox. His books have been nominated for the Edgar, the Shamus, and the Lefty Awards. Copies of his books are available at the Library.

The event is free, and is sponsored by the Monterey Library and funded by the Monterey Cultural Council.

Annual Used Book Sale

Don't miss the Library's annual used book sale on Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m.

to 1 p.m. on the Library lawn. A lot of treasures have been accumulating in the Library basement and we don't want to have to carry them back in, so there will be bargains galore. Book donations are being accepted for the sale, but please no text books, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or water-damaged or mildewed books.

If you would like to help us set up on the sale day, please call the Library, 528-3795, or Will Marsh, 528-4347.

Pottery Workshop for Children

On Saturday, August 3, Rick Hamelin will give a pottery demonstration and workshop for children from 10 a.m. to noon on the Library lawn. Mr. Hamelin emphasizes the importance of accomplishing goals as one pieces together the threads of learning, making


mistakes, building confidence. He will make dragons, teapots, and chickens on the wheel, and the participants will learn to make a pinch pot. Children under seven will need to have someone older with them to help them.

The event is free, and is sponsored by the Monterey Library and funded by the Monterey Cultural Council.



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Snow Farm

Greenhouse & Farmstore

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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships Awarded

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund has awarded first-time and renewal scholarships totaling \$70,250 to fourteen residents of Monterey. The recipients are:

Hannah Bracken, John Hopkins

University, Baltimore, MD

Maggie Clawson, Hampshire College

Kimberly Gero, Westfield State

College, Westfield, MA

Lauren Goldfinger, Marist College,

Poughkeepsie, NY

Michele Haapanen, Liberty University,

Lynchburg, VA

Deirdre Higgins, Dean College,

Franklin, MA

Oriana Raab, Hofstra University,

Hempstead, NY

Rachel Rodgers, University of the Arts,

Philadelphia, PA

Andrew Shaw, Curry College, Milton,

MA

David Shea, Northeastern University,

Boston, MA

Emily Valentine Sottile, Rhodes

College, Memphis, TN

Christina Temenos, Syracuse Univer-

sity, Syracuse, NY

Katherine Vallianos, Swarthmore

College, Swarthmore, PA

Noah Wright, Kansas State University,

Manhattan, KS

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund is overseen by a committee of Monterey residents. Twenty applications

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Residents of Monterey, Becket, Great Barrington, New Marlborough, Otis, Tyringham, and other towns in the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative can take part in the following hazardous waste collections scheduled for the summer. Preregistration is required by calling the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) at 445-4556 or 800-238-1221 or e-mail jamiec@cetonline.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

On Saturday, July 20, a comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Transfer Station, 1 West Stockbridge Road (Rt. 102 West, about one mile west of downtown Stockbridge). Any product labelled 'caution, toxic, poison, flammable' will be accepted. These items should not be discarded in the trash. Improper disposal can cause air and water pollution problems.

were reviewed based on academic achievement, community service, the desire to achieve academic life goals, and financial need. Edith Wilson created the scholarship in 1995 as a testament to her love for Monterey and in memory of her lifelong friend Marjorie McLaughlin, to support the town's young people as they pursue a college education.

The types of products that will be accepted include paint thinners and solvents, pesticides, drain and oven cleaners, button batteries, and rubber cement.

Oil Paint and Waste Motor Oil Collections

Bring unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine as well as used motor oil to any of three collections this summer.

Wednesday, July 31, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m., Great Barrington Recycling Center, 601 Stockbridge Road, (Route 7) across from Monument Mountain High School.

Saturday, August 17, 9-11 a.m., Otis Transfer Station, 538 W. Center Rd.

Wednesday, August 28, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Lenox DPW, 275 Main Street, Route 7A, across from Highway Dept.

Latex paint will not be collected at any of these events. Dried latex paint can be disposed of with regular trash. Kitty litter or newspaper can be used to absorb the excess liquid until it is dry. Refer to <http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm> page for more information about acceptable material and additional collection opportunities.



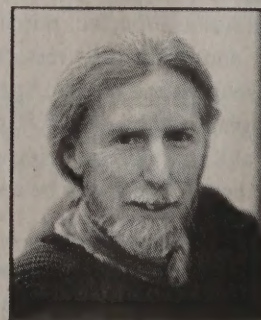
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Gige O'Connell's Second Grade, New Marlborough Central School, 1984. How many can you name?

Top, l to r: Larry Davis, unidentified, Amy Gillette, Jennifer Lowe, Bruce Snow. Standing on ground, l to r: Donald Jones, unidentified, unidentified, Walter Hewins IV, Tish Thorpe (with sign), Kim Clapp, Jason Smith, unidentified, Gabriel Small. Sitting on slide, top to bottom: unidentified, Jack Cruikshank, Rachel Rodgers, unidentified, Beth Kern. Readers who recognize the unidentified children are encouraged to send their names. (Photo courtesy of Linda Thorpe)

New Community Playground

In the January issue of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News*, Mrs. Mildred Fennell of Hartsville wrote an editorial about the playground at New Marlborough Central School. When Mrs. Fennell was on the New Marlborough/Monterey PTA at the school thirty years

ago, she started a fund-raising campaign to update the playground. Many local groups helped in the fund-raising and it turned out to be very successful.

It is now time to update this thirty-year-old equipment to today's standards. A Coin Drive at the New Marlborough Central and Monterey Schools was successful this spring in raising \$500. The

fourth grade held an auction raising over \$300, which they donated to the newly formed Community Playground Fund. A Capital Fund Drive is now underway and grants are being researched in New Marlborough.

Perhaps those of us in Monterey with fond memories of recesses spent on the present equipment would care to donate, so that our future students from Monterey can create memories of their own.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to: The Community Playground Fund, PO Box 206, Mill River, MA 01244.

If you would like more information please call Linda Thorpe 528-2164 or Theresa Amstead 528-1853.

— Linda Thorpe

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Gould Farm Barn & Shop Renovations

As you know, Gould Farm has been involved in the renewal and upgrading of our work program training facilities for several years. The first phase was a small addition and renovation to our dairy house, which was completed in 1999. We are now licensed to sell our delicious artisan cheddar and fresh cheddar curd. Then phase two was completed in July 2000,

when, with the help of sixty timber framers, we raised a beautiful structure intended to house our vegetable storage and cleaning operation in the basement, and a resource center and food processing kitchen on

the main level. During 2001 we spent much of our energy raising funds for the completion of the building. We now are in the process of finishing the final phase of this project, the interior of the new barn.

Our primary intention with this phase, together with shop renovations, is to offer improved facilities for programs and opportunity for job-skill building for our

guests. On the basement level there will be a sink for vegetable rinsing, a zoned root cellar, and a walk-in cooler for vegetables. Under an awning on the north side of the building we will have a farm stand where the public can come and purchase plants, flowers, and vegetables in season. This will replace the small stand now in operation at the Roadside Store. On the south side of the building we will attach a potting shed and new greenhouse. We would like to have the greenhouse in operation year-round so

we can grow fresh lettuce for our dining room.

On the main level there will be a licensed commercial kitchen. Here we will process our own vegetables, sauces, salsas, and preserves for use in

the Gould Farm kitchen. We also plan to develop and produce a small line of dressings, sauces, and baked goods for sale to the public, retail, wholesale and some mail order. As you know, we have been selling a small array of products through the Roadside Store for many years. This building will allow us to develop our product line, increase our efficiency, and

put in place excellent production standards which will make for better job training and better products. We will bottle syrup, make tomato sauce and pesto—use what we need and sell what we can. In the process, guests will learn valuable production skills they can take into the marketplace. Essentially, we are taking our food processing operations out of our main meal preparation kitchen and giving them a home of their own—something that is long overdue. Also on this level is a meeting and resource space where guests and staff will have computers and resource materials related to food processing, agriculture, horticulture, nutrition, and animal husbandry. This space will also be available for guests to work on resumés, college applications, and job applications as they plan for moving on. We will be able to invite small groups into the beautiful reception area and show them our program.

We also plan to construct a wood-fired oven about 100 feet from the southwest corner of the building, where we will bake artisan breads and other baked goods for use in our kitchen, and for sale at Roadside and in a few outlets in South County. We will use the attic area either as office or storage space.

Gould Farm has always matched meaningful, productive work with therapeutic programs. We anticipate this facility will dramatically improve our ability to do this.

— Amy Goldfarb



Lake Buel General Store

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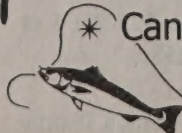
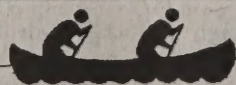
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Nuciforo Launches Website

State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr. (D-Pittsfield) has launched a website that will provide users with a unique opportunity to access state-related matters impacting western Massachusetts. The site, www.nuciforo.com, will also inform the public of legislation and initiatives that Nuciforo supports.

The site includes press releases, legislation, a photo gallery, and several resource links. Similarly, the "District Represented" tab provides detailed information on all 45 cities and towns that Nuciforo represents in the Massachusetts Senate.

The website was developed by Boxcar Media in North Adams and is designed so that it can be updated regularly. From such links as Berkshire Community College and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Tanglewood, visitors to the site will be able to access a wide range of western Massachusetts websites. The site also contains links to pending legislation, legislative committee work, and biographical information about members of the legislature.

Benjamin Luxon Looks Back on Stellar Career

The Sandisfield Arts Center is pleased to present a benefit for the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children on Saturday, July 20, at 8 p.m. The evening will feature internationally renowned baritone Benjamin Luxon in conversation with WNYC radio host George Preston, giving a retrospective of Luxon's stellar

career. Audio and video examples of Luxon's triumphs in the fields of opera, recital, folk, musicals, and oratorio will be featured, and audience questions will be warmly welcomed, as this beloved artist recalls the highlights of a uniquely rich and varied life on the stage.

Benjamin Luxon was, for twenty-five years, one of Great Britain's major international singers. He sang regularly in the U.S.A. with all the top American symphony orchestras, including the Boston Symphony under Seiji Ozawa. He also made multiple recordings with Berkshire's own Bill Crofut, internationally known folk singer and banjo player, who died of cancer in 1999 at the age of sixty-four. Luxon and



Crofut appeared together on PBS in "Two Gentlemen Folk," snippets of which will be viewed during the evening.

George Preston, a singer and actor in his own right, and a longtime admirer of the artistry of Ben Luxon, has enjoyed an accidental nineteen-year career as a broadcaster. After starting as a classical music host in Tampa, Florida, George moved on to WBUR in Boston, and is currently the host of "WNYC Overnight" on 93.9 FM in New York. He is a part-time resident of Tolland.

The Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children was established by the Sandisfield Arts Center in memory of Bill Crofut, beloved neighbor and avid arts supporter. The fund is administered by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Grants are made twice yearly to children of Sandisfield for a wide range of programs, including music lessons and participation in area programs such as Flying Cloud Institute and Chorus Angelicus.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Route 57 and Hammertown Road in Sandisfield. Tickets for the Luxon Retrospective are \$25. For more information or reservations, call (413) 258-3309.

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Daphne Sleeps

Sixteen

*I will lay me down
and make my own horizon*

*and the mantle of the sky
will be light upon me
and the waters of the wells of dreams
will rise and spill lightspun streams
through the lovely colored ribbons
of my mind*

*I will pluck flowers of hope
make a bouquet of words:
holy herb, hyssop, prince's pine and balm
and weave a garland of stars for him*

*and I will look for him
past the meridians of night
until I find him*

*he will smile at me and touch my flowers
he will play and carry me away like a strong horse
and close my eyes with kisses
he will smell of sweetgrass and bark*

*and no one will come
and no one will talk
no one ask why
and we will lie together in silence all the night*

and God himself will sigh

Thirty-six

*I will lay me down
and try to make my own horizon*

*and the mantle of life
will be heavy
and the waters of the wells
of dreams
will rise and spill their torpid streams
through the rusty injunctions
of my mind*

*and I will pluck flowers of regret
necessity and rue
and weave a garland of suggestions*

but I will hound him

*past the meridians of the market
until I find him*

*he will turn away and touch his till
he will find fault with the food
he will put himself between my thighs
take relief and grope
for the bathroom light
and smell of disappointment*

*and the children will cry
scream and fight
and we will lie in silence all the night
and God himself will sigh*

Eighty-six

*I will lay me down
and make my last horizon*

*and the mantle of years
will be scraps
and the waters of the wells
of dreams
will rise and spill starsprung streams
through the rapid resignations
of my mind*

*I will pluck memories
past the meridians of reason
and give all it ever was
to whatever there is*

*and I will look for truth
past the meadows of my life
until I find Him*

*He will smile to see my flowers
He will carry me away with the wind
He will gather me to his breast
and kiss my eyes in death
He will smell new and promised*

*and those that come
those that talk
or think they know why
will lie in silence all the night
and God himself will sigh.*

— A. O. Howell

sweeping before solstice

Bro Nello and Baby Rolo were sweeping the garden, bright day that it was, full of sweet whiff and flutterings. They were sweeping the garden paths and sweeping the garden beds, up and down and to and fro. Bro Nello in his tall humor was sweeping westerly, from the south side of the garden to the north, including the flowers of imagination. Baby Rolo, wide-eyed and wild haired, was sweeping the eastern edge of things, from the north side of the garden to the south, taking great care of the roots of culture.

They were sweeping away the debris and the unwanted weeds, sweeping away excessive desires and the seeds of sinister power. They were sweeping away the flags and the borders, sweeping away the churches, synagogues and mosques, sweeping away the constitutions and the scriptures, and all the superfluous strangley vines of the mind. Even terror and fear, they were whisking away into the morning mist, preparing for the fresh planting.

Goldfinch had returned to the Bush and the Bush was still bigger than all of us, thankfully. (That cold-hearted old troll still resisting going back to his cold hole, sticking his icy middle finger out several times before the Goddess overwhelmed him in green.) Hummingbird was working down at the Dictaminus Plant now since things got scarce up at the Rhodies and the Ant clan was working up at Peonies to get them ready to open for the show . . .

. . . and Bro Nello and Baby Rolo were sweeping . . . sweeping up the garden paths, sweeping down the garden beds, sweeping in the garden gates and sweeping out the garden skies, gesturing with their long prolific brooms as if laying down verse amongst the verdancy, as if sweeping from one poem to another . . . and in fact they were! possessed by the Goddess herself and speaking in one tongue and in all tongues and in the voice of the young muse Boney Oscar gave forth thusly:

Hummingbird at My Window

*Jeweled hummingbird outside my window,
Poised in mid-air like a helicopter,
Your tiny wings seem to whirl like a propeller;
So fast they go to hold you there, suspended,
As you probe into each blossom for sweet nectar.
Sometimes you leave the flowers and face my window...
Do you see me there or is it your reflection?*

of two

*holding council with the Great Goddess
I pondered on the theme of two
and fell immediate between less
of a cliché and much ado*

*whence I dreamed of dragonfly heavens
where the once colorless drag nymphs
hailed themselves from the mud unleavened,
teetered, and then bravely went*

*on wings of wonderment and hunger
fueled by destiny and instinct
seeking meadows of sun and thunder
and ponds of great sex and offsprings*

*oh Life! we're born, we eat, and we die—
what could be more simple, more true?
portending enlightenment belies
that all we are came from these two:*

*that alone she's strong and beautiful
but needs soft pillows and mirrors
and alone he's irrefutable,
creator, but needs an anchor*

*dragon queen, dragon king, let's away—
we're off to find a bite to eat
and then we'll couple in summer shade
chrysalis left in our retreat*

to Mark and Lisa, 6/22/02
— R. Zukowski (Boney Oscar)

*So short a time you linger, then off you dart
More quickly than you came
As my eyes try in vain to follow
Hoping you will lead me to your nest
In only seconds you have vanished
And left me peering through the glass
Eagerly watching for you to return.*

— Eleanor Kimberley

Dinah's Back with Two Book Reviews

Tuck Everlasting, by Natalie Babbitt

Tuck Everlasting is about a family that is able to live forever, a young girl who wants to make a difference in the world, and a mysterious stranger. No member of the Tuck family has grown any older in eighty years. The youngest son has been sixteen for eighty years and will be forever. Winnie Foster, the young girl, wants to make a difference, and the only way she can think of to do so is to run away. And the mysterious stranger has been lingering around town looking for someone but he does not say who, or his own name. What has happened to the Tucks to make them everlasting? What will happen if all the people mentioned meet? To find out, check this book out at the Monterey Library.

Olivia Saves The Circus, by Ian Falconer

Olivia Saves The Circus is an excellent picture book about a young pig named Olivia. Olivia is good at everything, like feeding her little brothers, taming lions, and tightrope walking. During her summer vacation she is able to put the talents to use. Her mother takes her to the circus and there is no one there to tame the lions or walk the tightrope. There is nothing for Olivia to do but step in and tame the lions. To find out the other amazing things she does, you can get this book at the Monterey Library.

— Dinah Mielke

My New Scythe: Less Bother

Last year when filling out my seed order I noticed the catalogue carried a book on scythes. At the time I was not ready to return to scything the orchard but I got the book and spent the next winter reading and pondering. By seed-ordering time this year I was ready to get back to unmechanized hand mowing.

I grew up watching my dad scythe the knoll at the Keyes place on Route 23 (now occupied by the Lazzarini house), also the clearing down by the swamp at the east end of Lake Garfield. As a kid I took a turn with all sorts of tools, including the grass scythe and the heavier brush model. Both had curved wooden snaths and came from Dad Keyes' toolshed on the west end of the barn. They were fairly heavy. Eventually Dad switched over to the lighter aluminum snaths that could be found in hardware stores.

This was about all I knew of scythes: you stopped to sharpen whenever the mood struck or the blade was obviously dull. Always, after a few licks with the stone, the cutting would be easier for awhile. With the thin grass blade you could get through some stout weeds and even thin little saplings if they were no thicker than coat-hanger wire. Any bigger than that and you risked snapping the blade. I never broke a blade, though I did take some chances. The worst damage I ever did with a scythe was down by the swamp when I took down a Canada lily in bud, just after it had been pointed out to me.

When we came to homestead on Hupi Road in 1974, we got our own aluminum

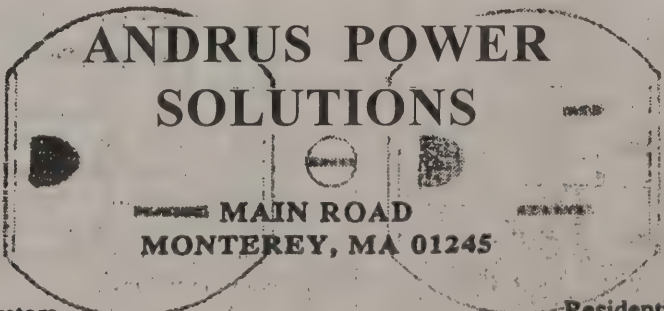
snath and grass blade. At first it was not much use to us because we were living in the woods. But once the orchard was cleared and the sun came in, wild woods grass began to come up and we knocked it down with our scythe. We raked it with a wooden grass rake, picked it up with pitchforks, and put it away in our shed to feed the goats during the winter. I'm sure it was not nutritious hay and besides, there was never enough. We found ourselves bartering our labor on a hay crew for the sixty bales we needed to get through the winter. Our reason for mowing the orchard shifted from a twofold interest in harvesting and clearing to the one most people have for mowing around here: keeping the woods from growing up.

We don't have a lawn, but we want to keep the little oaks and poplars from getting a grip on our precious cleared land. We couldn't turn the goats out to graze in the orchard or they would have taken the bark off our fruit trees before starting on the grass. So we kept whacking away out there with a scythe until one day my parents moved in next door, bringing with them their lawn mower. Pretty soon I was borrowing it quite regularly, convinced that this was an easier way to keep the orchard mowed than using the scythe. Maybe I liked the tidier look, or maybe I didn't care to rake and store the poor quality grass, since we had other sources of hay by now.

It wasn't long before we got our own mower. Our orchard is rough, and every

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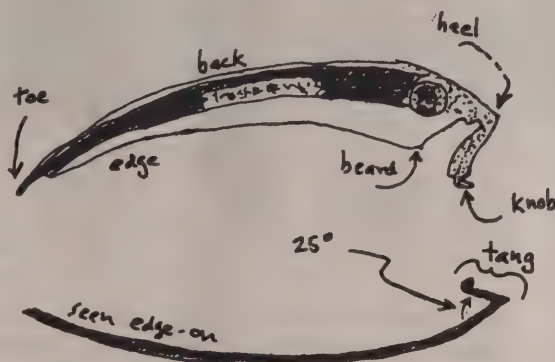
winter the frost heaves up new obstacles for the sharpened blade. I was embarrassed to return my parents' mower all dinged up by my rocks so I bought a Snapper and set it as high as it would go. I spent the next ten years hauling it up and down hill, around rocks and stumps. I wore my chain saw ear-protectors and got tingling hands. As soon as the grass would get to be five inches long I'd be frantic to mow, afraid to let it go another day. I did not even want the grass for feed and was beginning to realize that a big part of my concern was cosmetic now. Every time I'd mow the orchard I would feel some satisfaction at the sight of the nice even green carpet. In my middle age I was making the shift from home-stead-practical to suburban-proud.

Then along came this catalogue with a different kind of scythe. I had heard about the "European blade," hammered instead of stamped. An old family friend had brought one home from Spain and did his lawn in Ohio with it. He stood with his feet planted and slowly twisted, bringing the blade along parallel to the ground. It was so sharp it snicked through the green lawn grass, quiet and precise. Now I could have a blade like that myself.

My seed order arrived, along with scythe and sharpening accessories. I distracted myself with planting for some weeks, and then one day the grass was long in the orchard and I needed mulch for the garden, so I headed out with the new scythe. First I oiled the light wooden snath,

worried I might get it wet and lose my perfect mowing angle to warp. I carried my stone with me in a metal holder half full of water hooked over my belt in the middle of my back. It gurgled a little as I walked.

The first time I ran that blade through the tall grass I knew I had crossed over to a new world of mowing. It is easy, it sounds nice, and it feels good. I mow at different times of day, depending upon the weather and my own schedule. I do not go around and around behind a loud ma-



My new Austrian blade

chine, hurrying to get done just because I want to get it over with. I go out early and mow in the shade. The weight of dew on the grass seems to help, and my book says the best time to mow is at dawn, before sunrise, because the plant cells are tender at this time. I can't always be as good as the guy who wrote the book, but I do find I'm tuned in to the shapes of the shady places around my orchard, and I come

back at different times of day when the sun is off the places still needing to be mowed.

I am usually able to spot frogs and salamanders before I whack them, but I realize that my new scythe is probably more dangerous to wildlife than the old snorting gas-powered Snapper was. One reason for this is that now I let the grass get long before I go out to mow. This lets the animals get used to the orchard as their safe haven. The other danger comes from my being a much quieter mower now. The

frogs don't hear me coming the way they used to and sometimes I see them jumping away just as I am starting my swing. I have to choke up to let them go, like the driver who "brakes for animals," and even then I have to worry that they have hopped off into the tall grass where I have yet to mow.

My old aluminum scythe hangs in the rafters of the summer kitchen. I think its hard stamped blade is a little rusty. I come in from mowing and put the new scythe up beside it, carefully wiped and oiled. Our history here can be read in the tools hanging on the walls like old photos: the crosscut saw, the broad axe, a big block and tackle, lengths of chain. We have built the house, shaped the place, bothered (and worse) the frogs and salamanders. I shouldn't feel too bad about them: even when I am gone, they will have to watch out for garter snakes—it's just the way of the world. Maybe I am not bothering them any less with my gorgeous new scythe than I used to with the lawn mower, but I am certainly bothering myself less. Less bother is less bother.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Loons, Lions, and Tanagers

How would anyone know there was at least one Loon on Lake Garfield this spring? You might just ask Lanny Lanoue, a regular member of the Congregational Church Coffee Club. At the crack of dawn, he likes to row his one man shell on the lake, when the surface of the water is as placid as a mirror, and when he separates the reflection of Bullhead Rock with his daily exercise ritual, the morning stillness might be shattered by the shrill tremor of a common loon, as well as by its subtle aquatic passage from the darkness of night into the light of day. As this ancient bird glides along, its feathers seem to mimic images of reflected sunshine; with such a graceful and aristocratic appearance, it seems to me that it should have been knighted by the Audubon Society as "Lord of The Rings."

Even more sensational headline news, in the spring season there have been at least three separate sightings of mountain lions, in the Monterey area. The first report of the season was from Rita Kasky, Involvement Director of Activities at Gould Farm, who gave a very precise and accurate description of an appearance near her home close to Dry Hill in Hartsville. The second and third reports of seeing this elusive phantom of our local wild kingdom, which so far has

eluded any photo opportunities, occurred on properties that border Tyringham Road. First, the large feline was described by the crew of Perry Tree and Landscape doing maintenance near Jules Dahlman's place. Then it was seen again, not more than half a mile away, by Myrna Randolph, in a field at the Monterey/Tyringham line, as she was driving south towards her home on Hupi Road.

Each report given to me was very convincing, so what I described in the

Monterey News several years ago as a "mountain lion mania" continues to rear its head, perhaps fueled by reports that out west, their predatory habits include killing a mule deer about every ten days, and even stalking people along remote hiking trails. This pattern of behavior seems rather incredible in the Berkshires, to say the least. I am told that wildlife authorities no longer deny the possibility of mountain lions appearance, but as yet cannot acknowledge them as established in the eastern





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states. Can Bigfoot be far behind? To the average reader, such a possibility is much more easily denied. The jury is still out.

Nobody believes everything they read in the papers. I tend to believe what I see myself. So the most exciting wildlife sighting I can report personally happened at 585 Main Road, where we live, when Jan and I thought we saw a scarlet tanager—but we can't prove it. Even less of a headline, Ken Bergstrom and I saw a young mink in the parking lot of the Berkshire Fish Hatchery, and the heat of excitement was turned up a notch when it took cover under the door of the toolshed nearby. We began to wonder if there were also other members of the family there who might acquire a taste for sushi. One negative thought leads to another, so now I must give you some really bad news, which follows in the footsteps of my last article in the *News* entitled "Unborn Spring."

We are beginning to find out that freezing temperatures and ice storms of the spring in the year of '02 killed most of the fruit in this area. The extent of the wipeout may vary by elevation, but the damage seems to be pretty universal to apples, peaches, pears, berries, and possibly grapes. This disaster is also confirmed by the owners of Taft Farms and Windy Hill Orchards in Great Barrington.

Will the rising sun of the summer solstice, climbing to the highest elevation

Bidwell House Schedule

Saturday, July 27, 1:00 to 4:00:
Jeff Burdick, President of the Northern Berkshire Beekeepers Association, will demonstrate the art of beekeeping. Jeff's presentation will include a lecture and multimedia discussion of bee culturing and honey production. This is a family-oriented event, as Jeff has been very active in bringing his presentation into classrooms all over Berkshire County. He has 35 years of experience in the beekeeping field, so his presentation is sure to be interesting and interactive.

Saturday, August 3, 11:00 to 4:00:
Maureen Costello will be on hand to present a wool-processing demonstration. Various tools of her trade will be on display, such as two looms, a drum carder

of its seasonal arc over our wondering heads, bring a warming, growing trend as well as brighter horizons? It may well be that the Lord of the Rings knows. The loon has been on this planet for more than a billion years, even though it is not telling us very much! But then in retrospect, perhaps we have spent too much time listening to the media, and are no longer tuned in to the news of the natural world around us.

— George Emmons

and a spinning wheel, and two pallets of dyed wool will be used to explain the centuries-old process of wool dying. Maureen is the owner of Sheepgate, a wool products shop in Blandford, Massachusetts; she has done presentation at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens in Stockbridge, and the Shaker Village in Old Chatham, New York, and has participated often with Agriculture in the Classroom. Please join us at the museum for an exciting and educational day.

For more information call 528-6888.

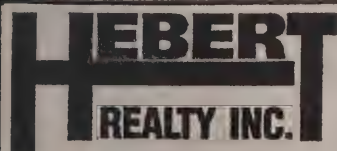
No Community Dinners in July or August

The community dinner is taking a well-earned summer break due to all the other activities available. The monthly dinners will be resumed in September.



Lake Garfield Torah Group

The Lake Garfield Torah Study Group will be meeting on Saturday mornings during the summer. For more information, call 413-567-8171.



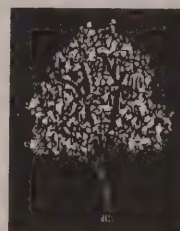
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The Thread of the Story: Migrating Robins

Maine's Schoodic Peninsula is "way Down East." To get there, we make the seven-hour drive to Ellsworth, take a left, aim the car toward the coast of England, and drive for another half hour or so. The peninsula includes the northernmost outposts of Acadia National Park, and from there it's easy to consider a drive to Canada for lunch, or to visit Campobello. We're spending part of July and August there this year.

The first time we visited, we arrived in early fall. The area on the coast is full of mountain ash groves, and at that season, the mountain ash berries were just about ripe.

Mountain ash, with its tiny oval green leaves and clusters of bright orange berries, has been a favorite of mine since childhood. I'd only seen them in ones and twos, though, cleverly situated in cultivated landscapes.

These were cluster after cluster of mountain ash, a natural part of the swampy

lea along the shoreline. I walked among the trees entranced, sang that familiar old English ballad "The Ash Grove" with a new appreciation of the tree's magic. After all, neither European nor American mountain ash are part of the ash family. Like crab apples and pears, these trees belong to the same order as roses, but are distinguished by their pinnate, ash-like leaves.

The large military base on the Schoodic Peninsula closed recently, causing a great wave of military migration, but this area is no stranger to transients. It's just that the flocks are usually made up of birds.

The friends we were visiting, who had just moved to Maine, had heard rumors that huge numbers of birds would arrive just as the mountain ash berries grew fully ripe. The birds would fill the trees, chatter loudly among themselves, fill their bellies with the sweet, fermenting fruit. Then, fueled up for the next leg of the long flight south, they'd be gone until the next year's crop of ash berries were ripe and ready for eating.

They flew in, chowed down, flew



away again, right on schedule. It was wonderful, my friends told me. But by that time I was back home in Monterey, already started on the needlework pillow you see here. The pattern combines a bird pattern from The Blue and White Needlework Society, established in nineteenth-century Deerfield, Massachusetts, with a spray of appliquéd ivy leaves. The embroidery is a combination of stitches and colors; the leaves are a pale mint green print with stitched veins and stems. This month the pillow's gone home to the Schoodic Peninsula, where it will nest year round.

— MaryKate Jordan



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Dawning of an Age of Peace

*"Today our nation is shedding tears,
not out of misery but joy."*

— Harmid Karzai, Afghan Leader

These words flowed tearfully from the leader of a nation that has suffered the terror of war for over two decades. And yet, a faint glimmer of hope has emerged in Afghanistan, demonstrating the strength and will of the human spirit to overcome adversity.

Sometimes I find it difficult to get out of bed in the morning and face the seemingly insurmountable problems that confront our civilization: war, starvation, environmental degradation, crime. It feels like too much! The media tend to focus on and sensationalize the violence occurring in our world. The "dawning of the age of peace" is not newsworthy. In acknowledging this very dark time in our human history, I offer a seed of hope. This seed has been nourished by the tears of joy so eloquently expressed by Harmid Karzai and by the millions of people around the globe that are actually working for peace.

I recently had the opportunity and privilege to attend the Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence Ceremony at the United Nations in New York City. Many dignitaries, including Martin Luther King's

oldest daughter, Yolanda King, and Mohandas Gandhi's grandson, Arun Gandhi, gathered to celebrate the culture of peace that is being generated by leaders in communities around the world. Participating in this heart opening and peace-inspiring event in the building where the nations of our planet convene, helped me to feel in my bones that while there are wars raging in the world there also are many, many people taking action to make peace a reality. This was a comforting experience and has inspired me to join with others who have made peace a priority.

I now embrace the mission of the United Nations as my own and plan to contribute to its success. In 1987, the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development issued a call for the creation of a new charter that would set forth fundamental principles for sustainable development. The "Earth Charter" was born from this effort and reflects an evolutionary leap in consciousness for our civilization. Here is the preamble of the Earth Charter. To view the entire document, go to www.EarthCharter.org.

"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a

magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations."

The arts also have a prominent role in ushering in the age of peace. I would like to conclude with this poem written by Amana Melome, a gifted artist living in Los Angeles. May peace prevail on Earth.

Harmony

*yesterday gone with the wind
today ready to begin, again
tomorrow starts now and it's exciting
new possibilities I am creating
brick walls I am deflating
no longer alienating
and now ... I can talk to you
and now I can make a move
and rearrange tomorrow
today.
no longer searching for peace in my
herbal tea
I've decided to dig deep inside of me
and came to realize some things are
bound to happen
in spite of me
but now I'm committed to
BECOMING that harmony I wish to see
my voice surpasses mountaintops and
borderlines
and somehow finds yours, creating song
spreading light
creating life
my wings span farther than I had
imagined*

— Michael Johnson,
with Susan Johnson



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Painting

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A Visit to Cuba

Cuba is a small country only ninety miles off the coast of the United States, yet very few Americans actually go there. Why? Because, we're discouraged by the US government: Why? Communism. When I learned that my school, Berkshire Country Day, was offering a trip to Cuba, through the Berkshire Project, I realized what an amazing opportunity it would be to go. Less than a month later, I gathered with the group of six other students, two chaperones, one guide, three other adults, to drive to Montreal. We had to fly from there because it is extremely difficult to fly from the US.

We arrived in Cuba around midnight. As we walked off the plane, we were hit by a wave of fumes. We had been warned that the pollution in Havana was awful, but that hadn't quite prepared me for what met us at the door. I was suddenly getting nervous about what else I had underestimated, what I had forgotten to pack, and all the other things that run through your mind when you're taken off guard. Luckily, our other guide was waiting for us, and we were at the hotel in about thirty minutes.

The next week was filled with amazing, and exciting adventures. Throughout my visit, I gained a tremendous admiration for the culture and a better understanding of this small but powerful country. For the last few years, I had been aware that Cuba was a Communist country and that was bad. I knew that Castro was a dictator, and I accepted that because the United States held Cuba at arm's length, I had to also. Now, I would give

anything to go back some day to spend more time exploring and learning about Cuba. The government is an important part of a country, but it's small; the people and the culture make up the other part. Yes, the country is run differently, but I found out, that it's okay for them to be Cubans, that it doesn't make them much different. I don't approve of Communism, but that doesn't mean I have to disapprove of the people or their culture.

We visited a modern dance company, saw a rehearsal of the National Ballet, visited the Museum of the Revolution and the Museum of Fine Arts. We sampled some Cuban food and ate at nice restaurants. One night, we ate with a Cuban family, and stayed until 1 a.m. taking pictures, because one of the students had brought her Polaroid and everyone was intrigued by it. We spent a day in the countryside, we took a tour of the Orchidarium of Zoroa which has over 500 different kinds of Orchids. We swam in a sulfur waterfall and saw a huge mural that had been painted on a rock face. We spent one afternoon at the beach. We took salsa lessons, which we liked so much that our guides set up another lesson for us on Friday evening. We went on a tour of old Havana and saw the Imperial Palace.

We visited a class of third graders, and we asked and answered questions. They haven't learned English yet, and they won't learn about the United States until next year. They asked us questions

like, "How do American children play?" and, "Do you like the United States?" We asked them how much they had heard about the US, and if they liked learning in school. It was an amazing visit.

We visited an art gallery, and the studio of a famous Cuban painter. We didn't get to meet him, because he was on his honeymoon. We also visited the home of Ibrahim Ferrer, one of the musicians in the Buena Vista Social Club. He had just been called away that afternoon, so we were unable to meet him as well, but we were given a tour of his home. It was beautiful. We also got to see his room of awards and photographs. We went to a market that had booths where people sold their artwork. There were amazing paintings, leather bags, knit clothes, beautiful woodwork, everything you could possibly imagine. Those were some of the many things we did, most definitely the high points.

On Friday evening, two of the adults who had come with us, Dennis and Sharon (who, unknown to me, were engaged) decided that because of their deep love of Cuba and their wish for our countries to someday work together, they would get married in Cuba. So Friday evening we had a wedding in the park. It was a great ceremony. Hugo, one of our guides, translated for the crowds who came to watch. We then ate, at a little restaurant, a seven-course meal and absolutely fantastic.

After we got back to the hotel, we broke up into groups; some stayed sitting



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outdoors, others went to bed. I went with one of the chaperones, Hugo, and three of my fellow students to Cathedral Square. It was about midnight, and we listened to music, had some mango juice, and then hired two horse-drawn carriages to take us back to the hotel. It was the perfect way to end our visit.

The next morning, we left by 10:30, and had a pretty smooth flight back. Our driver, M.C., was waiting at the airport. The only thing left was US customs. We made it through without any major glitches, and just before we drove away, our chaperone said, "Whatever you do, don't cheer." We managed to hold it in until we were driving away, then the van erupted in shouts. Sure, we had had a great time, but we were home!

Cuba is an amazing place, even from the little bit I experienced. It was exciting, and completely different. I hope that someday, Cuba and the United States will be able to work with each other, because Americans deserve the opportunity to experience this culture, and Cubans deserve the same opportunities as we do. I know many people don't like Cuba because of Communism, but I think those who can't accept a culture with a different type of government are almost as bad as racists. You can disapprove of their government, but does not mean we've got the right to put down the people?

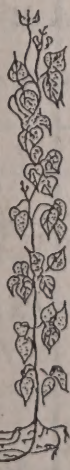
Adios Cuba, for now anyway.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Monterey Road Race Set for July 20

The annual Monterey Road Race, sponsored by the Monterey Park Commission, will be held on Saturday, July 20. There will be a Kid's Fun Run on a course around the Greene Park ballfield starting at 9 a.m. The Fun Run is free.

The 4.5-mile Road Race starts 9:30 a.m. in the center of town and follows the usual course west on Route 23 to Curtis Road and Gould Road, then up Wellman Road to New Marlborough Road, finishing back in the center of town. The course is a hilly one on paved and dirt roads, testing runners' ability to adjust to a variety of racing conditions. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Town Hall. The fee is \$6 for the Road Race.

For more information call race director Ron McMahon at 528-9341.

P.O. Box 9, 01245

Alert for Dog Walkers

To the Editor:

A large amount of the mouse poison Decon was thrown out on Hupi Road toward the end of June. The poison pellets became scattered along the roadside and ditch in an area much used by dog walkers. Bonner McAllester and I were able to clean up some of the pellets, but others had been crushed by traffic. It is heartbreaking and hard to understand that anyone would do such a thing. Obviously such behavior is harmful to our pets, our animal neighbors, our environment, and our community.

— Eileen Lawlor

The editor encourages readers to submit letters to the Monterey News (I get lonesome), but please sign all submissions. We do not print unsigned letters.



A.S. Goldfarb

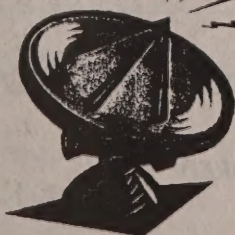
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Personal Notes

Happy Birthday to **Nancy Kalodner** on July 1st, **Jason Monk** on the 2nd, **Walter Parks** on the 7th, **Jerry Raab** on the 14th, **Jessica Thorn** on the 15th, **Leonard Weber** on the 18th, **Joseph Kopetchny** on the 21st, **Richard Sheridan** on the 23rd, **Thomas Lipsky** on the 24th, **Michael Bingham** on the 26th, **Christopher Dinan** on the 27th, **Charles McTavish** and **Darlene Monk** on the 28th.

Happy Anniversary to **Jon Sylbert** and **Lisa Smyle** on the 2nd, **Maury and Carolyn Mandel** on the 19th, and **Michael and Nancy Bingham** on the 25th.

Best wishes to **Mt. Everett** June graduates **Andrea Parks**, **James Theriot**, and **Tenji Kushi**, and to **Sudi Baker**, graduate of **George School** in **Newtown, PA**.

Congratulations to **Claire Mielke**, recipient of the **Colby College Book Award**, which goes to high school juniors in recognition of academic achievement and school spirit. **Claire** received an annotated copy of **Walden**. She has also been elected president of the **Mt. Everett Chapter of Rotary Interact**, the high school equivalent of **Rotary**. **Claire** is entering her senior year at **Mt. Everett**.

Congratulations also to **Maggie Mae Clawson**, who will be attending **Hampshire College**, beginning this fall. She is the daughter of **Don Clawson** of **Monterey**

Contributors

We are deeply grateful to these readers who sent contributions this month.

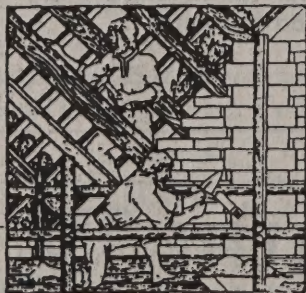
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Gordon and Claire Stafford
Mickey and Mike Freundlich
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Susan Bronson and John Sellev
Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester
David and Donna Brown
Chris and Jamie Vlcek
Ann Vetter
Patricia and Richard Edelstein

and **Eileen Clawson** of **Pittsfield**.

On a personal note — a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who called, sent cards, and kept **Rick** in their thoughts and prayers during his recent surgery.

— Deborah Mielke



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Calendar

Every Monday (except holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon, Town Offices.

Every Saturday in summer: Mass, 7 p.m., Roman Catholic Chapel of Our Lady of the Hills, Beartown Road.

Tuesdays–Saturdays and Holidays: Bidwell House Museum open for tours, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Art School Road, Monterey.

Every Saturday in summer: Meeting of Lake Garfield Torah Study Group. For information call 413-567-8171 or 413-528-5066.

Friday, July 5: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Thursday, July 11: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Sunday, July 14: Linda Worster in concert, 2:30 p.m., Meetinghouse. Tickets at door. Information available at www.montereychurch.org.

Tuesday, July 16: Talk by mystery writer and Lenox native Parnell Hall, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Saturday, July 20: Monterey Road Race. Fun Run 9 a.m. (free); Road Race starts 9:30 a.m. Register at 8 a.m. at Town Hall, fee \$6. For more information call race director Ron McMahon at 528-9341. Annual Second Homeowners Meeting, 10 a.m., Firehouse.

Sunday, July 21: Workshop on Jesus as presented by Gospel writers, 11:30 a.m., Meetinghouse fellowship hall. Bring sandwich; tea and coffee available. Information 528-5850 or www.montereychurch.org.

Wednesday, July 24: Full Moon.

Friday, July 26: Illustrated talk by Lani Sternerup on "Ventfort Hall and the Museum of the Gilded Age," 7:30 p.m., Knox Museum wing, Monterey Library. Sponsored by Monterey Historical Society. See p. 7.

Saturday, July 27: Used Book Sale, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Library lawn.

Annual Firemen's Steak Roast, 5–7 p.m., Firehouse pavillion

Bees and beekeeping presentation by Jeff Burdick, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road, Monterey. See p. 17.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Christine Hall. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information (413) 528-9385.

Friday, July 31: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Saturday, August 3: Pottery demonstration and workshop for children by Rick Hamelin, 10 a.m. 12 noon, Library lawn. See p. 7.

The Observer May 26–June 25

High temp. (6/12) 85°
Low temp. (6/8) 36°
Avg. high temp. 72.7°
Avg. low temp. 48.9°
Avg. temp. 60.8°
Total rainfall 5.07"
Precipitation occurred on 16 days

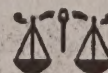
Swimming Lessons at Lake Garfield

Swimming lessons will be conducted at the Town Beach on Lake Garfield in late July and early August. Information on the lessons will be available at the Town Beach in early July.

Wool-processing demonstration by Maureen Costello, 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road, Monterey. See p. 17.



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..... George Emmons
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

News by mail (free) to Barbara Tryon Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 (e-mail: windrose@bcn.net).

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 7, 10, 11; *George Emmons*, p. 16;
MaryKate Jordan, p. 18; *Bonner McAllester*, p. 15;
Thomas Yohe, p. 1.

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